

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address September 14, 2018

Being Ready in North Texas

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Just over a year ago, Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Harvey took a toll on Americans in Texas and around the country. This week, communities once again are bracing for severe weather. Here in North Texas, we are no strangers to natural disasters including tornadoes, floods, storms, and other emergencies.

Forecasting is a valuable resource, but too often emergencies strike without the benefit of advanced notice. As we have been reminded this week, it is important that families are prepared before disaster strikes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a number of resources to help Americans prepare for any emergency they may face – from hurricanes and evacuations to wildfires and flooding. Learn how to make a plan and find additional information at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). This is the time to revisit the basics, such as following the instructions of local officials, tuning into local media coverage for information, and planning a way to communicate if the power is out.

While September is National Preparedness Month, it is important to prioritize emergency preparedness throughout the year. Each spring, I host an emergency preparedness summit to help North Texas families prepare for severe weather or other emergencies in our area. This annual resource is a free opportunity to discuss North Texas weather and more with local officials and experts. To find additional information about this annual event, please visit my website at burgess.house.gov.

This weekend, I am thinking of our fellow Americans on the east coast and in other areas impacted by Hurricane Florence. Today and every day, I am grateful to our first responders, physicians, and other emergency professionals who put others' safety and wellbeing above their own.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.